

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-24 are pending in this application. In light of the following remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

I. Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 11-15, 17-18 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,363,507 to Nakayama et al. (Nakayama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,572,728 to Tada et al. (Tada); rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakayama in view of Tada, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,894,306 to Ichimura; and rejects claims 5 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakayama in view of Tada, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,151,621 to Colyer et al. (Colyer). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Office Action admits that Nakayama fails to disclose that each unit of meeting data is identified by a specific processing apparatus, but alleges that Tada discloses this feature.

However, regarding independent claims 1-3 and 11-14, Nakayama fails to disclose a meeting system having a "meeting data reproducing apparatus reproducing meeting data that includes fixed presentation data." While the Office Action cites multiple passages as teaching the plurality of processing apparatus (col. 2, lines 9-67, col. 5, lines 57-66, col. 6, lines 44-50, col. 7, lines 39-49, col. 10, lines 43-61, col. 11, lines 25-67, col. 12, lines 3-23, and col. 15, lines 25-63), none of the sections discloses reproducing fixed presentation data prepared ahead of a meeting. At best, Nakayama discloses "materials" (Figs. 9B-10C, 17, 23, and 30-36) or "work" (Figs. 20-21A), both of which are objects on which collaborative work is carried out, not work prepared ahead of time that is "fixed." As Tada is directed to a system for editing conference proceedings, Tada does not cure these deficiencies.

Further regarding claims 1-3 and 11-14, Nakayama also fails to disclose a conversion unit including a virtual machine "that receives the supplied-data from another one of the plurality of processing apparatus, reads files in a common format and performs operations specified in the files, the virtual machine converting said supplied-data into a data format which allows said meeting data to be reproduced, the meeting data being stored in units based on corresponding units of the supplied-data, each unit of the meeting data being identifiable by a specific processing apparatus that supplied a corresponding unit of the supplied-data." Nakayama is silent regarding any capability to convert file formats. Tada is not relied upon for disclosing these features, and Tada does not disclose them.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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